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SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: SPANISH FM MORATINOS SEES HOPE FOR POLITICAL REFORM

REF: Astana 515

¶1. (SBU) OSCE Chairman-in-Office Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos wrapped up his two-day visit to Kazakhstan with a briefing on April 11 for the press and diplomatic corps. Echoing the April 10 OSCE press release, Moratinos said that it was vital for Kazakhstan to make concrete progress on political reform in order to obtain consensus support for the chairmanship.

¶2. (SBU) In a separate conversation with Pol-Econ Chief, Moratinos said that his meetings with President Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Masimov, and others had left him with the impression that it might yet be possible for Kazakhstan to pursue real reform in time for a positive decision on the CiO bid.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: Post holds out hope that the working group created by President Nazarbayev in February (reftel) will put forward draft legislation that will increase the ability of Kazakhstani citizens to influence their government. There are still few signs, however, that those at the highest levels of the Kazakhstani government are ready for anything more than incremental changes. End comment.

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